

**CITY OF ALBANY
COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW BOARD**

*March 10, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
Via Zoom*

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order and Roll Call (N. Vives and Dr. Harden)

Board Members Present: Nairobi Vives, Paul Collins-Hackett, Dr. Rev. Victor Collier, Dr. Veneilya Harden, Matthew Ingram, Victor Person, Zach Garafalo, John Levendosky, Kevin Cannizzaro

Also Present: Cdr. Joshua Laiacona, Patrick Woods, Matt Toporowski

Board Chair Vives called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

II. Approval of the Agenda (N. Vives)

Upon motion and second, the agenda was approved.

III. Vote on Nominations for Executive Officers (P. Woods)

By unanimous consent, Nairobi Vives was re-elected as Chair

By unanimous consent, Dr. Veneilya Harden was re-elected as Vice Chair

By unanimous consent, Paul Collins-Hackett was re-elected as Secretary

IV. Case Review/Update

CC2018-013 (P. Collins-Hackett)

The Complaint: The complainant alleged that police used excessive force and derogatory language in responding to a call for assistance that he had initiated.

OPS Findings

- 1) **Use of Excessive Force - Exonerated:** where the acts which prove the basis for the complaint occurred, but the review shows that the act or acts were proper.
- 2) **Conduct Standards – Unfounded:** where the review shows that the act or acts complained of did not occur or were misconstrued.

Commander Laiacona addressed questions and concerns about OPS findings including use of profanity, de-escalation, counseling vs. disciplinary action for officers, and the procedures pertaining to handling property at booking. Commander Laiacona agreed that the officer's language was unprofessional and did not align with policy.

Upon motion by Mr. Collins-Hackett and second, recommendation of the addition of "Conduct Standards – Violation of Policy" to OPS findings passed unanimously.

Chair Vives postponed the vote on these findings to the next meeting.

CC2019-008

(P. Collins-Hackett)

Chair Vives noted the complainant was present

The Complaint: The complainant alleged she was physically assaulted by police.

Mr. Collins-Hackett noted his review was incomplete as there was limited body cam footage and the audio was not working at the time of his review of the body camera footage.

Mr. Collins-Hackett noted concerns about the reports and findings including the following:

- There are conflicting descriptions of the incident in different officers' reports about how the complainant ended up on the ground.
- The relevancy of references to the complainant's behavior from a year prior to the incident.
- There was not enough information to confirm that the complainant's allegations are unfounded and questioned how OPS came to their conclusion based on the evidence available.

The complainant stated there were cameras in the courthouse where the incident occurred, there is additional video footage of the incident on the internet, and a court officer who witnessed the incident was never interviewed.

Mr. Collins-Hackett noted the additional footage will be reviewed and an attempt to identify additional witness(es) will be made so that they can be interviewed.

Upon motion by Chair Vives and second, motion to table discussion to a future meeting passed unanimously.

CC2019-021

(V. Collier)

Rev. Collier and Commander Liaicono agreed to schedule a time to meet to review evidence connected to this case.

V. Committee Reports

i. Bylaws and Rules

(M. Ingram)

Mr. Ingram reported that the Bylaws and Rules committee met on February 17, 2022, and reviewed proposals written by students, Ava Ayers, Patrick Woods, and the Government Law Center at Albany Law School which may help with the implementation of Local Law J. The committee plans to have draft language for specific proposals to put before the Board for vote at the next meeting.

ii. Outreach

(P. Collins-Hackett)

Mr. Collins-Hackett reported that several schools are interested in having board members present information on the board from a community engagement perspective and will be reaching out to schedule those presentations. A community group will be assisting in designing and distributing outreach materials and is available to assist however the Board needs.

iii. Mediation

(V. Collier)

Rev. Collins reported that there were no updates at this time.

iv. Police Liaison Committee

(Dr. Harden)

Dr. Harden reported that the Committee meets monthly and all board members are invited to attend. If a member is unable to attend, they may send her any questions or concerns they would like the Committee to address.

iv. Public Official Liaison Committee

(N. Vives)

Chair Vives reported that the committee has a meeting scheduled with APD leadership for March 18, 2022, and that additional Board members, GLC staff, and Matt Toporowski will be attending.

v. Monitor Task Force

(Dr. Harden, J. Levendosky)

Dr. Harden reported that a second interview with a new monitor was conducted, and the interviewee seems to be a good fit. The task force would like to move forward with onboarding the new monitor if the Board is in agreement. Dr. Harden also requested for Board members to join in creating an orientation for new monitors

Mr. Levendosky reported that the person who was interviewed for the monitor position seems like a very community-focused individual with investigatory experience, and that he is in agreement with Dr. Harden about moving forward with onboarding.

VI. Report from Government Law Center (P. Woods)

Mr. Woods reported that a CPRB Program Coordinator has been hired and will be starting in mid-April.

VII. Report from OPS (J. Laiacona)

Commander Laiacona reported the following:

- A meeting between the Board and APD leadership is scheduled for March 18, 2022.
- The citizens police academy is tentatively scheduled to begin on April 13, Classes will be recorded, and include trigger warnings.
- The *History of Policing* curriculum used in the academy will be distributed to the Board for suggestions on any additions or changes.
- The next Police Academy for recruits is scheduled in early or late April. There will not be enough time to get the Board a time block with an approved curriculum for this academy. The academy beginning in September or October will have a time block for the Board to present an approved curriculum.
- The process for electronic review of closed/past cases is currently being tested and is close to being rolled out. The plan is that the e-mails will go to CPRB emails which will include a link with case information. The link will expire after a specific period of time.

VIII. Report from the Chair (N. Vives)

Chair Vives noted that there is a lot of work that needs to be done and things are now falling into place showing the results of the hard work the Board does. The Board has and will continue to make meaningful change in the community.

Chair Vives reported that concerning the Jordan Young case, she has asked Board members Collins-Hackett, Ingram, and Garafalo to work on the investigation. She also noted that they are working on engaging outside investigative assistance.

IX. New Business (N. Vives)

Upon motion and second, motion to approve minutes of the January 10, 2022, and January 13, 2022 meetings passed unanimously.

Chair Vives reported one new grievance has been received since the February meeting.

Chair Vives tabled complaints regarding the April 14, 2021 and South Station incidents to the April Board meeting.

X. Public Comment

No comment.

XI. Meeting Adjournment

(N. Vives)

Upon motion and second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM and the Board went into Executive Session, which ended at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Paul Collins-Hackett
Secretary